

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force local affiliates to broadcast an anti-Kerry documentary is a partisan action that violates their public interest requirement.

This is yet another example the danger to our democracy of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair could have decided to air a more balanced presentation of both John Kerry and George Bush, as did PBS' Frontline this week.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.